

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for client-side print job meta-data collection and client billing comprising:
capturing print job data associated with a print job during execution of a print command;
converting said print job data into meta-data;
combining said meta-data with said print job to form an enhanced print job;
sending said enhanced print job to an imaging device; and
extracting said meta-data from said enhanced print job for client billing.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said print job data includes a client identifier associated with said print job.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said print job data further includes a matter number.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said capturing print job data comprises entering said print job data into a pop-up window during said execution of said print command.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said capturing print job data comprises gathering at least one of a number of copies, a number of pages, a type of paper, a size of paper or a client identifier associated with said print job.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said print job includes a plurality of computer files.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said meta-data comprises markup language.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said markup language comprises extensible markup language (XML).

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising billing a client in accordance with said print job data.

10. A system for client-side print job meta-data collection and client billing comprising:
a client computer configured for capturing print job data associated with a print job during execution of a print command, converting said print job data into meta-data, combining said meta-data with said print job to form an enhanced print job, and sending said enhanced print job; and
an imaging device in communication with said client computer and configured for receiving said enhanced print job extracting and printing said print job from said enhanced print job and extracting meta-data from said enhanced print job for billing a client.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said print job data includes number of pages, type of paper, size of paper and client identifying information associated with said print job.

12. The system of claim 10, further comprising a software process running on said client computer for capturing print job data associated with said print job during execution of a print command, converting said print job data into said meta-data, combining said meta-data with said print job to form said enhanced print job, and sending said enhanced print job.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein said imaging device includes one of a printer, a photocopy machine, and a networked printer and a photocopy machine.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein said meta-data comprises a markup language.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said markup language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML).

16. The system of claim 10, further comprising a billing computer in communication with said imaging device for receiving said meta-data from said imaging device and configured for generating billing data.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein said billing computer is further configured for generating billing invoices including said billing data.

18. An imaging system configured for communication with a client computer over a network and configured for receiving an enhanced print job, extracting meta-data from said enhanced print job for billing a client and printing a print job from said enhanced print job.